3M Worldwide

2001 Release

3M Health Information Systems Division Launches Outsourced Coding Service

Business Editors & Health/Medical Writers

SALT LAKE CITY--(BW HealthWire)--Oct. 16, 2001--3M Health Information Systems Division today introduced 3M coding resources, a comprehensive remote coding management solution for inpatient and outpatient hospital services. The new outsourced 3M coding resources service, available in the first quarter of 2002, combines 3M's market-leading coding and reimbursement system software, 3M's trained coding staff, and coding management expertise from 3M Consulting Services to help hospital health information management (HIM) departments deal effectively with coding backlog.

"We know from talking to our customers that the nationwide shortage of qualified coders is a critical problem," says James Burgess, division vice president, 3M Health Information Systems Division. "Hospitals dealing with this shortage often face a coding backlog that can result in delayed reimbursement when patient records can't be submitted on time. Customers tell us that backlog conditions, and the challenges involved in recruiting and training new coders, are putting hospitals at risk for increased claims denials, additional expense from resubmitting claims and even regulatory compliance problems -- all because records may be improperly coded by inexperienced and overburdened coders.

"With 3M coding resources, we're offering HIM departments a convenient, cost-effective solution to successfully manage and reduce their coding backlog and help ensure appropriate and timely reimbursement," explains Burgess. "This is an important strategic initiative for us. It underscores 3M's commitment to provide solutions to meet the market needs -- flexible coding services combined with innovative software technology and supported by comprehensive coding management and compliance expertise."

3M coding resources uses state-of-the-art document management technology to facilitate high-speed record scanning and HIPAA-compliant, encrypted file transfer. Patient charts are transmitted seamlessly and securely from a hospital's HIM operation to 3M remote coders using a basic Internet connection. Remote coding is performed by professional coders backed by 3M's experienced coding staff for quality control and consistent performance measurement.

3M coding resources also offers specialized coding expertise for complex, high-value medical records, as well as compliance review and process improvement consulting to help

ensure that a hospital's coding is accurate, complete and compliant. The new remote coding solution provides short- or long-term coding services when and where they are needed to make the greatest impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of HIM coding operations.

3M Health Information Systems is an international leader in clinical information management with products ranging from medical records coding systems to a comprehensive computer-based patient record system. Home Health Systems, consulting, implementation, training and process improvement services also are provided. 3M products are based on open architecture and industry standards; they interface with legacy systems and offer fast implementation and a timely return on investment. 3M Health Information Systems is a division of 3M, a diversified technology company with a health care business consisting of over 10,000 medical, surgical, consumer, home health care, dental and pharmaceutical products. More information about 3M Health Information Systems is available on the Internet at www.3Mhis.com or by calling 1-800-367-2447.
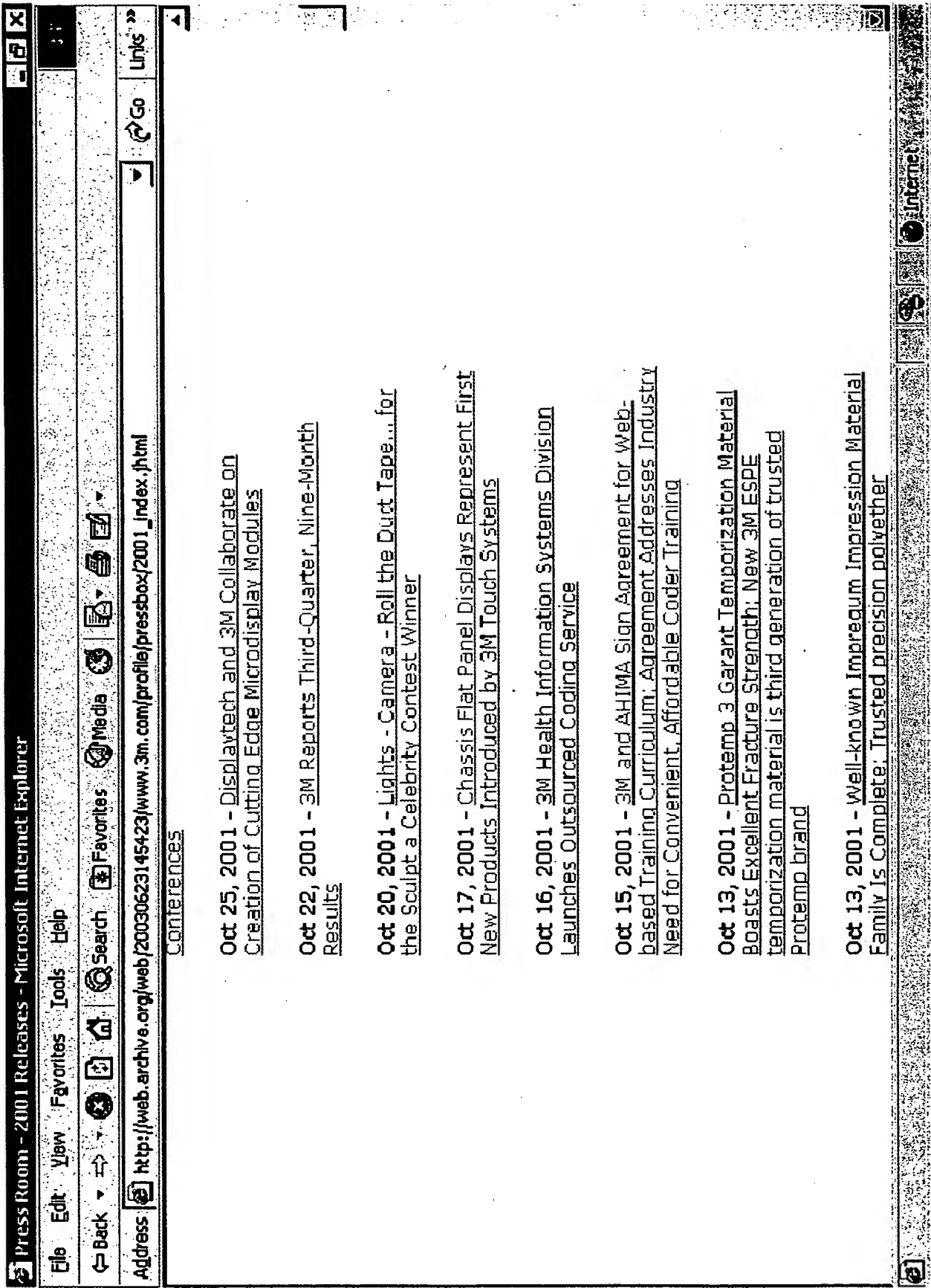
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